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16 NOVEMBER 1971

OP-80

PLEASE

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VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM

1962 - FEBRUARY 1968

AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIET CONG INTER-REGION 5

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MAJOR LE C A N,  
ALSO KNOWN AS LE NGOC MINH, LEADING CADRE OF THE MILITARY PROSLEYTING SECTION, VIET CONG MILITARY INTER-REGION 5, WHO WAS CAPTURED NEAR DANANG ON 5 JANUARY 69, AND WHO WAS CONVERTED TO NALLIER STATUS IN JULY 71. (FOR ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, SEE PARA 6). WHILE CAN APPEARED TO HAVE ABOVE AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE AND WAS COOPERATIVE DURING THE DEBRIEFING, HIS REPORTING RELIABILITY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. HE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 AND 3 FROM PERSONNEL OBSER-

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KISINGER 1150

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VATION, THE INFORMATION IN PARA 3 FROM A REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE KONTUM PROVINCE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION, AND THE INFORMATION IN PARA 4 FROM (FNU) THANH, A CADRE OF THE QUANG DA PROVINCE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION.

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1.

~~1. BATTALION OF THE 100TH REGIMENT OF THE 32ND ARMY GROUP OF THE AMERICANS~~

~~2. THE PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED BY A QUANG NGAI PROVINCE UNIT IN LAM THANH HAMLET, HOA LUONG VILLAGE, HOA VANG DISTRICT, AND TURNED OVER TO THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF QUANG NAM PROVINCE. AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SECTION IN CHARGE OF PRISONERS OF WAR, MAJOR LE CAN DECIDED TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ADEQUATE DETENTION CAMP NEARBY AND TO TAKE THEM TO THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF MILITARY INTER-REGION. IT WOULD TAKE BETWEEN TWO AND THREE MONTHS. (FIELD COMMENT: VIET NAM MILITARY INTER-REGION 5 INCLUDED GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) QUANG NAM, QUANG TIN, QUANG NGAI, BINH DINH, PHU BON, KONTUM AND SR IAC PROVINCES.)~~

2. ONE OF THE PRISONERS RELEASED WAS CALLED BROWN AND HELD THE RANK OF EITHER PRIVATE FIRST CLASS OR SERGEANT; HE WAS AN ADVISOR TO A GVN REGIONAL FORCES COMPANY IN HOA VANG DISTRICT. HE WAS BETWEEN 18 AND 26 YEARS OF AGE, ABOUT 1.60 METERS TALL, AND WEIGHED OUT 75 KILOGRAMS; HE HAD GREY EYES, BLOND HAIR, A LARGE FOREHEAD, STRAIGHT NOSE AND PALE COMPLEXION. THE OTHER PRISONER WAS CALLED KIM (PHONETIC), AND HELD THE SAME RANK AND POSITION AS THE BROWN PRISONER. HE WAS ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS BROWN AND WAS ABOUT 1.65 METERS TALL AND WEIGHTED ABOUT 65 KILOGRAMS. (HE ALSO HAD BLOND HAIR, GRAY EYES, A STRAIGHT NOSE BUT HAD A TANNED COMPLEXION.)

3. ~~MAJOR LE CAN~~ CAN SAW A REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE KONTUM MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION CONCERNING THE CAPTURE OF

KU PHUOC

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AMERICAN MEDICAL OFFICER WHO HELD THE RANK OF CAPTAIN.

COMMENT: THIS PRISONER MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH CAPTAIN

JOSEPH KUSHNER WHO WAS REPORTED TO BE IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE IN DECEMBER 1970 AND WAS A CAPTAIN AND A MEDICAL DOCTOR.) KUSHNER MADE SEVERAL RADIO BROADCASTS FOR THE VC. THE PRISONER WAS TURNED OVER TO THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF MILITARY INTER-REGION 5 WHICH PUT HIM INTO A DETENTION CAMP WHERE HE LATER CONTRACTED DYSENTERY AND DIED. HE WAS BURIED IN TRA MI DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, BUT THE EXACT LOCATION WAS NOT KNOWN. HE WAS ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD.

4. [REDACTED] CAN WAS ON A TRIP TO DIEN TIEN VILLAGE, DIEN BAN DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, WHERE HE MET (FNU) THANH, A CADRE OF THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF QUANG NAM PROVINCE. THANH TOLD HIM THAT AN AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR HAD BEEN RELEASED IN 1966 BUT HAD REFUSED TO RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY. THE AMERICAN INSTEAD HAD VOLUNTEERED TO WORK AS A PROPAGANDA CADRE FOR THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF MILITARY INTER-REGION 5. CAN WAS NOT CERTAIN BUT THOUGHT THE NAME OF PRISONER WAS BOBBY. (FIELD COMMENT: THIS PRISONER MAY BE [REDACTED])

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TURED BY THE VC IN 1965 WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE DEFECTED IN 1967.) ACCORDING TO THANH, THE PRISONER WAS A PRIVATE FIRST CLASS. AFTER HE DEFECTED, HE USED A LOUDSPEAKER TO BROADCAST PROPAGANDA TO THE U.S. 5TH MARINE REGIMENT, LOCATED IN DO NO MILITARY BASE, DIEN TIEN VILLAGE, DIEN BAN DISTRICT. PRIOR TO 1964, THERE WAS NO CLEAR POLICY ON THE DISPOSAL OF REMAINS OF DEAD AMERICAN PRISONERS. USUALLY, THEY WERE BURIED IN THEIR CAPTORS WHERE THEY DIED. IN 1964, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR SOUTH VIETNAM ISSUED A DIRECTIVE, NUMBER NOT KNOWN,

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THEIR OFFICIALLY ORDERED THE PRISONERS BURIED WHERE THEY DIED; THE CAPTURING UNITS, HOWEVER, WERE INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A SKETCH OF THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE GRAVE. THIS SKETCH, PLUS ALL IDENTITY PAPERS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS OF THE PRISONERS WERE SENT TO THE NEXT HIGHER UNIT, WHICH WOULD THEN FORWARD THEM TO THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF MILITARY INTER-REGION 5. AS OF JANUARY 1969, THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION CONSISTED OF COLONEL (FNU) T R I, CHIEF OF THE SECTION AND ALSO IN CHARGE OF PENETRATION ACTIVITIES; LIEUTENANT COLONEL (FNU) T H A I, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SECTION AND ALSO IN CHARGE OF PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES; MAJOR (ENU) S A U, PENETRATION CADRE; MAJOR L X CAN, PENETRATION CADRE; MAJOR (FNU) KEY, PENETRATION CADRE; AND MAJOR (FNU) N Y N H, ADMINISTRATIVE CADRE.

6. FIELD COMMENT: ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CAN -- HE WAS BORN IN NOVEMBER 1931 IN AN LAC HAMLET, MY HOA PLAGE, PHU MY DISTRICT, BINH DINH PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM. JOINED THE VIET CONG IN 1950, BECAME A PROBATIONARY MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY THAT SAME YEAR, AND BECAME FULL PARTY MEMBER IN JULY 1951. HE REGROUPED TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1955 AND IN MAY 1955 WAS ASSIGNED AS COMMANDER OF A RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY OF THE 324TH DIVISION. BETWEEN JULY 1957 AND EARLY 1960, HE RECEIVED TRAINING AT THE INFANTRY REFRESHER SCHOOL IN TAY PROVINCE. CAN INFILTRATED SOUTH VIETNAM IN 1960 AND WAS ASSIGNED DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE MILITARY PROSELYTING SECTION OF QUANG NAM PROVINCE. IN EARLY 1966, HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION HE HELD AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE.)

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE, USMACV, USAID, CORDS, 7TH AIR CR, USARV, NAVFORV, 525TH MI GP, 1021ST TAS, OSI, CINCPAC, CINCPACFLT, PACAF, [REDACTED]